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Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ISDA recognizes Jefferson County livestock farmer
for excellence in progressive farm practices**

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) recognized Greg Schneider, a Jefferson County livestock producer and owner-operator of Cave Spring Farm in Madison, who recently completed the voluntary ISDA Certified Livestock Program.

"Meeting with my local fire department was extremely beneficial," Schneider said. "This is one component of the Certified Livestock Program that I hope I never have to use, but I sleep better at night knowing that the local fire department is aware of the layout of my farm and now has a better idea of how to respond to an emergency here."

Cave Springs Farm is a small-scale diversified livestock farm with cattle, hogs, sheep, turkeys and chickens. While they occasionally sell animals at market, most transactions are direct to consumer farm gate sales. Off the farm, Schneider shares his passion for animal agriculture with students as an agriculture teacher at Southwestern Hanover High School, where he has incorporated many aspects of the Certified Livestock Program into the curriculum, including helping students create farm emergency plans.

To be recognized by ISDA as a Certified Livestock Producer, participants must complete the highest industry standards in environmental protection, animal health, bio-security, emergency planning and good neighbor relations.

"We are extremely proud of these livestock producers who spend the time to make their farms safer for their animals, families and communities," said Indiana Agriculture Director Ted McKinney.

ISDA launched the Certified Livestock Producer Program in July 2008. Since that time, 108 Hoosier farmers have earned the certification. Producers and others interested in learning more about the Certified Livestock Producer Program should contact ISDA Livestock Program Manager Kimmi Devaney at 317.450.3570 or KDevaney@isda.in.gov.

ABOUT ISDA

The [Indiana State Department of Agriculture \(ISDA\)](http://www.isda.in.gov) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director of ISDA is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

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